

quail late in September, 1895, and travelled and collected in Ecuador till about the end of February, 1898, when he returned to Europe. His work was mainly in the Andean region, which he traversed from Cuenca to beyond Tulcan. He made extensive collections in all departments of zoölogy, but especially of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes. From the summary of the 'Zoölogical Results' given at the end of the volume, it appears that a large part of the mammals and much of the invertebrate material still remains unpublished. The birds were promptly worked out and published in coöperation with Professor Salvadori,<sup>1</sup> the collection of Ecuador birds alone numbering nearly 3000 specimens and 613 species, of which 17 proved to be new. The present volume, as the title shows, is the author's diary of his explorations, and contains much of general interest concerning the countries visited and their people, especially the Indians and their antiquities, besides the wide range of natural history notes one would expect to find in the diary of a naturalist engaged in exploration. The numerous half-tone plates give views of characteristic Andean and other scenery, and of the natives, their habitations, utensils, weapons, and ornaments. Only the first 53 pages are devoted to Darien, where the author spent only a few months of his three years of exploration in Central and South America. Although the text abounds in references to the birds and other forms of animal life, there is unfortunately no index to enable one to turn readily to the information here so abundantly recorded. — J. A. A.

**Thoreau's 'Notes on New England Birds.'**—Mr. Francis H. Allen has brought together in a handy volume, published by the Houghton Mifflin Company,<sup>2</sup> the notes on birds scattered through the fourteen volumes of Thoreau's published 'Journal', "in the belief that readers and students would be glad to have these bird notes arranged systematically in a single volume." The editor has thus earned the gratitude of bird lovers and of the many admirers of Thoreau's quaint and often poetic manner of recording his observations and interpretations of nature. These bird notes were jotted down in Thoreau's diaries mainly between the years 1850 to 1860, with a few of later date and some written as early as 1842. Thoreau was a keen observer, and had much to record about many species, and though not an ornithologist, and sometimes mistaken in his identifications, being autoptically acquainted with very few species, his records have value as covering a period when ornithological observers were few, and the means of identification scanty in comparison with the profusion of hand-

<sup>1</sup> Noticed in *The Auk*, Vol. XVI, 1899, p. 292; Vol. XV, 1900, pp. 81, 303.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on | New England Birds | By | Henry D. Thoreau | arranged and edited | by | Francis H. Allen | With Illustrations from Photographs | of Birds from Nature | [colophon] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1910 — 12mo, pp. xiv + 452, 8 half-tone plates, and map of Concord, Mass. May, 1910. \$1.75 net.

books and local collections available to present day bird lovers. In this republication of Thoreau's bird notes the original author of them is most fortunate in having the work fall to the lot of an editor and commentator so sympathetic, intelligent, and painstaking. The 'notes' are of course fragmentary, but when brought together chronologically form a considerable amount of text about each of the more common species of the 'Concord region', where Thoreau lived, made surveys, walked in the woods and fields, and made daily note of what he saw and experienced.

The present volume is made up exclusively of excerpts from the 'Journal,' but the editor has given in an Appendix an index to the bird matter contained in Thoreau's other works, so that within the present volume are given not only the passages contained in the 'Journal' but an index to all of Thoreau's other ornithological references, these amounting, it is stated, "to less than one twelfth as much as that contained in the 'Journal'." A map of Concord, compiled by Herbert W. Gleason, shows the localities mentioned by Thoreau in his Journals, and is based in part on Thoreau's own surveys. This map is furnished with an index, thus greatly facilitating its use in reading the 'Notes,' and furnishing pilgrims to the haunts of Thoreau with the means of locating and identifying his favorite resorts.—J. A. A.

**Ridgway on New Forms of Swifts and Hummingbirds.**<sup>1</sup>—In this paper Mr. Ridgway describes a new species of *Chaetura* (*C. richmondi*) from Costa Rica, a new subspecies of *Streptoprocne* from Mexico, and two new subspecies of *Cypseloides niger*, respectively from Costa Rica and Jamaica; also a new species and five new subspecies of Hummingbirds, mostly from Mexico and Costa Rica. A new genus *Nesophlox* is proposed, with *Trochilus evelynæ* Bourcier as the type.—J. A. A.

**Swarth on Two New Owls from Arizona.**<sup>2</sup>—The first of the two new species here described is *Otus asio gilmani*, nearly related to *O. a. cineraceus*, but described as paler and smaller, and as occupying a different life zone, it inhabiting "the giant cactus country, valleys and mesas which are subject to extremes of heat and aridity, while *cineraceus* is at home along the shaded cañon streams and on densely timbered hillsides." The other is a subspecies of the Spotted Owl, and is named *Strix occidentalis huachucae*, described from a single specimen from the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona, and as differing from true *S. occidentalis* in being paler and smaller. The juvenal plumage of the latter is here described for the first time from two specimens taken near Pasadena, California, both from the same brood and just able to fly when captured.—J. A. A.

<sup>1</sup> Diagnoses of new forms of Micropodidæ and Trochilidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXIII, pp. 53-56, April 19, 1910.

<sup>2</sup> Two New Owls from Arizona, with Description of the Juvenal Plumage of *Strix occidentalis occidentalis* (Xantus). By Harry S. Swarth. University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. VII, No. 1, pp. 1-8. May 26, 1910.